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THE WORLD REMAINS A DANGEROUS PLACE, AND THE PRESIDENT REFUSES TO ABIDE BY THE WILL OF CONGRESS

(Mr. VITTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I continue to be amazed by the lax defense policies of this administration. Today our Navy has more than 200 fewer ships than during Desert Storm. Red China has six times our land forces and North Korea has developed a missile that delivers weapons of mass destruction to U.S. territory, and now the Clinton administration says it will ignore the vote of the Senate, abide by the rejected test ban treaty, just as they ignored H.R. 4 that calls for a missile defense.

Despite the fall of the Soviet Union, the world remains a dangerous place. Yet under President Clinton the will of the Congress is ignored and defense spending has not even kept pace with inflation. We must insist that the President follow the will of the Congress regarding national defense; modernize our weaponry and above all, above all, increase pay and benefits so that no soldiers, sailors, airmen or Marines have to rely on food stamps to feed their families.

WE MAY LOSE HMO REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). For what purpose does the gentleman from Arkansas seek recognition?

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to follow my colleague, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) because they are the ones that wanted to cut defense spending by 1 percent last week.

What I am here today about concerns what we are seeing that is happening. Despite a strong bipartisan vote in favor of HMO reform, the overwhelming and public support across the country, the leadership has shown it is still looking for a way to cut and eliminate real HMO reform.

The Republican leadership scheduled a bill that automatically linked to it a Patients' Bill of Rights, supposedly their patient access, but the House spoke by a bipartisan vote and passed a bipartisan measure for real HMO reform. Now we see the Republicans have stacked the conference committee with only one Member who voted for the bill, only one Member.

What is so sad is that they are overruling the whole majority in this House. Clearly, our fight for HMO reform is just beginning. We may have won the first battle but we have a big battle to go. By appointing only those Members who oppose it, they want to

bury it again. They are neglecting the American people by a large majority, and this House, by a large majority, wants binding external appeals. They want open communication with our doctors and patients. They want accountability to whoever makes those medical decisions.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair wishes to apologize to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) and to the people of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR RONALD W. BEDFORD, A REAL AMERICAN HERO

(Mr. EVERETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) that this Republican Congress has added about \$38 billion more than the President of the United States has requested for defense, but I would like to speak on something else.

Mr. Speaker, our society has cheapened the name of heroes today by elevating millionaire movie, music and sports stars while ignoring those Americans who perform unselfish acts of courage and sacrifice.

I wish to pay tribute to an American whose character and actions are truly unselfish acts of courage and sacrifice. On September 2, the 54th anniversary of VJ-Day, U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major Ronald W. Bedford began a 1,500-mile journey from Mobile, Alabama, to Washington, D.C.

His walk, which takes him through six States and the District of Columbia, is remarkable because it is entirely on foot. But CSM Bedford is not walking this enormous distance to set any record. Instead, he is striding the 71-day route to bring attention to and raise funding for the construction of a national memorial to honor America's greatest generation of heroes, those who fought in World War II.

Bedford, an ex-airborne infantryman now stationed at Fort Rucker, Alabama in my congressional district, came up with the idea of the walk after learning that there was no national memorial for the 16 million Americans who served and sacrificed to liberate the world from Nazi and Japanese occupation in World War II. His efforts to help raise money for the on-going World War II Memorial fund have gained the support of the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, and the praise of former Senator Bob Dole, who chairs the World War II Memorial Committee.

CSM Bedford's journey of 2,792,000 steps will take him through 144 cities and 15 military installations before he arrives at Arlington Na-

tional Cemetery on November 11. From there, he will cross Memorial Bridge, pass by the Lincoln Memorial, and then proceed to the spot on the national mall where the World War II Memorial will be built next year.

I salute the Sargent Major for his personal sacrifice and welcome him to Washington, D.C.

NO MORE DEADBEAT LEADERSHIP

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership was irresponsible in trying to spend the surplus on \$800 billion worth of tax breaks for the wealthiest in this country. Now it is trying to skip town without addressing the needs of American families.

The failures of this Republican leadership are many. Their budget does not extend the life of Social Security by a single day. It fails to strengthen Medicare with not even a penny to provide for a prescription drug benefit for seniors who are desperately looking for that kind of a benefit. The Republican leadership has ignored American families. Families overwhelmingly support common sense gun safety, laws that keep firearms out of the hands of kids and of criminals.

The Republican leadership has allowed the special interests to write our gun laws. Common sense should be applied when it comes to the safety of our schools, of our neighborhoods, of office buildings and places of worship. This Congress should not adjourn without closing the loopholes that let guns fall into the wrong hands. No more deadbeat leadership. It is time for responsible action.

LET US KEEP SOCIAL SECURITY SOLVENT

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, somehow, sometime, some place we are going to have to get over this partisan bickering and start working together on serious problems facing this nation. Yesterday I introduced a bipartisan bill that keeps Social Security solvent. In trying to convey the seriousness of the Social Security problem, I said that in the next 75 years the taxes coming in from Social Security are going to be short \$120 trillion from accommodating what we have promised in benefits; \$120 trillion over Social Security taxes collected over the next 75 years.

My wife Bonnie said, Nick, nobody understands what a trillion is. How else can we convey the seriousness? So, here is a quick try. A worker's income

will be less if we don't solve Social Security. Poland has just exceeded 48 percent of their payroll tax for senior citizens. France is over 70 percent for their payroll tax. That means the cost of production goes up and fewer sales and less employment.

We have created less take home pay, more jobs in the U.S. in the first quarter of this year than Poland and France have in those two countries combined since 1980. Our pay roll tax is heading in that direction. Let's fix Social Security.

THE LEGACY OF NEWT

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, almost one year ago today, October 20, 1998, the then-speaker Newt Gingrich came on this House floor and chided the Republican perfectionist caucus. Two disastrous government shutdowns and rhetoric hot enough to heat this building on a cold winter day taught him one thing, government is the art of compromise; but he is not here. That lesson has been lost on today's House leadership. The perfectionist caucus, the crowd that says it is my way or no way, rides on.

The majority whip says the leadership will negotiate with the President on his knees. The Republican leadership rammed an irresponsible tax cut through the House, even though it would suck the Social Security surplus dry, and now they claim they will not spend one dime of that Social Security surplus. They have already dipped into that surplus to the tune of \$17 billion and it is going to be well over on their way to spending \$30 billion plus.

Let us get real. Let us do the people's business.

ONE PENNY FROM EVERY DOLLAR IS ALL IT WILL TAKE TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY FOR AMERICA'S SENIOR CITIZENS

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe what I have been hearing from President Clinton and his Democrat cohorts in Congress over the last few days. It really should not surprise me to hear Democrats say we cannot cut any waste, fraud and abuse in government. After all, they are not exactly known for their fiscal discipline. But still, when they cry out that Federal agencies cannot find one cent out of every dollar to cut from their spending that just does not ring true, even for them.

One penny from every dollar is all that it will take to save Social Security

for America's senior citizens. How can anyone be against this? But the Clinton-Gore administration and their friends in Congress are against it.

We passed a very good bill last week, Mr. Speaker. It will strengthen Social Security, it will cut waste, fraud and abuse out of the Federal bureaucracy but only if the President signs it. It is time for the administration to stop protecting bureaucratic mismanagement at the expense of working Americans. It is time to stop pretending that it is not possible. It is time to do the honest, responsible thing, stop the raid on Social Security once and for all.

LOWERING THE COSTS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FOR SENIORS

(Mrs. THURMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was reading the newspaper this morning and I came across an ad that just stopped me cold. The ad put out by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America highlights the new medicines they are coming out with to help stroke victims, breast cancer patients, people with osteoporosis and other common ailments.

The industry says the new drugs save the country and employers billions of dollars by doing away with missed workdays, expensive rehabilitation costs and other forms of care. This may be true, but what good is it if millions of seniors who need the drugs to live cannot afford to buy them?

I also want to point out that the pharmaceutical companies also receive significant government dollars from the National Institutes of Health to conduct the innovative research and to find the cures. So is it then appropriate to price them out of the reach of the people who need them? PHRMA just does not get it, and I do not think the Republican majority gets it.

A couple of weeks ago, I joined with my Democratic colleagues on the Committee on Ways and Means to lower the cost of prescription drugs, and they voted against it.

IS THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATING UNDER A DOUBLE STANDARD?

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, could the U.N. be operating under a double standard? It is very interesting that the United Nations, while calling for the indictment of Yugoslavia President Milosevic as a war criminal was all too eager to work with Milosevic's health minister to set up the Kosovo program to, quote, stimulate the birth rate of

the populations in central and northern Serbia and to limit or forbid the enormous increase of the birth rate in Kosovo.

Could the U.N. be a complicit partner in Milosevic's efforts to halt or slow the growth of the ethnic Albanian population?

Could we have another one-child policy in the works following in the footsteps of China?

Can we blame the Albanian people for believing family planning programs and condom distribution is just another way to reduce their ethnic population?

Mr. Speaker, this tension in Kosovo represents the fine line that UNFPA is walking when it, however well-meaning, pushes through its population control programs around the world.

PHONY NUMBERS, PHONY ANALYSIS AND PHONY ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

(Mr. MINGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, we have been embarrassed by the tragic level of duplicity here by the Republican leadership this fall. In a misguided effort to avoid blame for using the Social Security trust fund to finance pork barrel spending for things, including TRENT LOTT's home State, the leadership is compromising the Congressional Budget Office. It is using phony numbers, phony analysis.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair wishes to remind Members to avoid such references to Members of the other body.

Mr. MINGE. It is using phony numbers, phony analysis and phony accounting principles. Here the Wall Street Journal has identified some of these problems. Smoke and mirrors has returned with claims that we have emergencies, and the use of slick accounting principles.

The Republicans are \$17.1 billion into the Social Security trust fund, according to the Congressional Budget Office. We violated the budget caps by over \$30 billion, and the Republican leadership has failed to get the spending bills to the White House and here we are 5 weeks into the fiscal year.

We are operating on supplemental resolutions. It is a disgrace to this body.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read some excerpts from